internationalising education

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

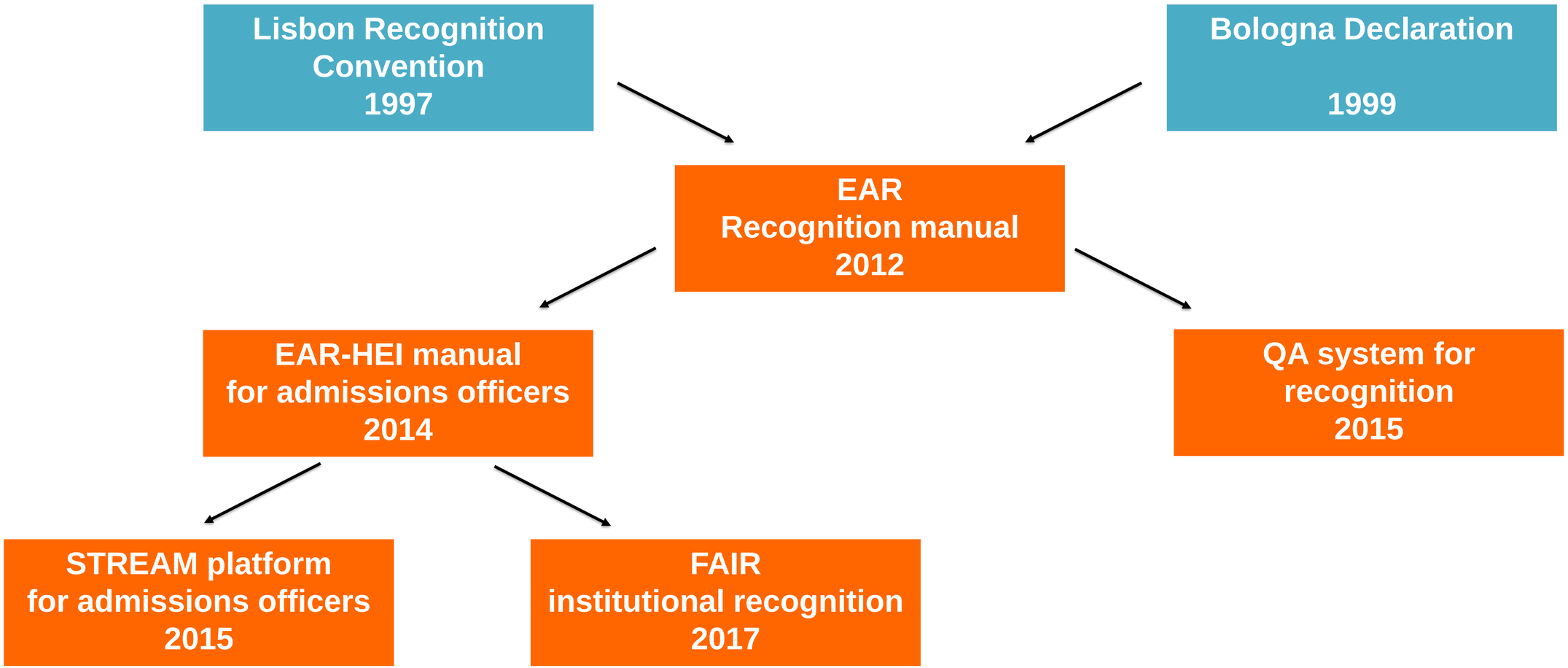
The European Perspective on Recognition: What's going on in other European countries?

Lucie de Bruin & Bas Wegewijs
International Recognition Department
Dutch ENIC-NARIC

International Recognition Department

- 6 policy officers
- 17 credential evaluators
- 3 administrative

European Area of Recognition



Implementation of LRC in Europe

Monitoring report: implementation of Lisbon Recognition Convention (first time in 2016):

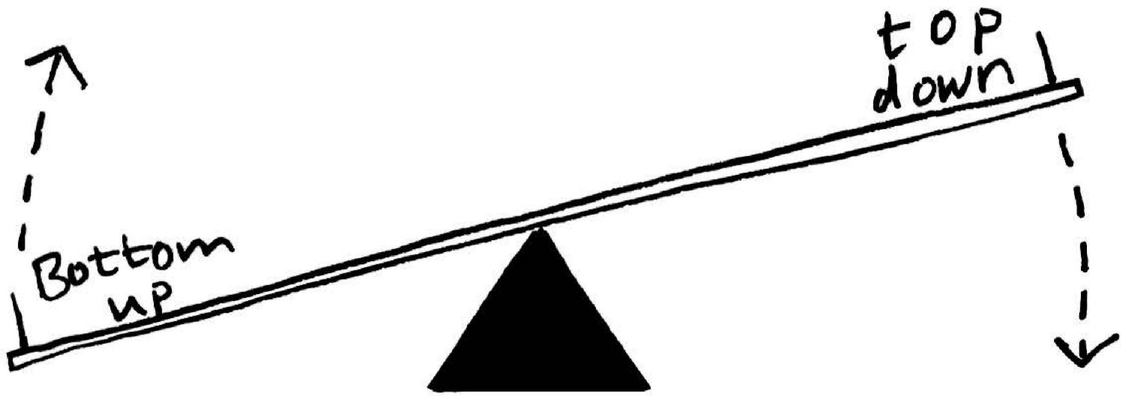
- Access to an assessment
- Recognition criteria and procedures
- Time limit
- Right to appeal
- Substantial differences
- Refugees' qualifications
- National information centre (and resources)

→ These topics overlap with Standards & Guidelines of Recognition + baseline assessment used in FAIR project

Implementation of LRC in Europe

Different models for recognition procedures:

- legal attitude versus flexible approach;
- top-down implementation by Ministry of Education versus bottom-up by peer groups (e.g. national associations of admissions officers);
- with LRC (international legislation) you need both approaches, combining the two forces!



European Standards & Guidelines

Standard 1.4 of the revised ESG sums it up nicely:

ESG 2015

1.4 Student admission, progression, recognition and certification

"Appropriate recognition procedures rely on:

-- institutional practice for recognition being in line with the principles of the LRC;

-- cooperation with other institutions, quality assurance agencies and the national ENIC/NARIC centre with a view to ensuring coherent recognition across the country."

→ Sounds like '***gelebte anerkennungskultur***' to us!

Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area

SQUARE project

- System of Quality Assurance for the Recognition Networks
- Tailor made for different types of ENIC-NARIC centers: Typology
- Self – Evaluation & Peer review based on Standards & Guidelines for recognition

internationalising education

Typology of information centres

http://www.enic-naric.net/square-quality-assurance-for-the-enic-naric-networks.aspx

GERMANY				
○ ***Legal Status***	Ministry		Agency	Separate
○ ***Recognition policy***	Autonomous		Partly regulated	Fully regulated
○ ***Size***	Large (>10)		Medium (6-10)	Small (1-5)
○ ***Status of the evaluation***	Advisory		Legally binding	No evaluations done
○ ***Purpose of the evaluation***	Further study		Employment	Regulated professions
○ ***Applicants***	Individuals	Education inst.	Employers	Authorities
○ ***Services***	Online database	Training	Conferences/seminars	Projects/research

NETHERLANDS				
○ ***Legal Status***	Ministry		Agency	Separate
○ ***Recognition policy***	Autonomous		Partly regulated	Fully regulated
○ ***Size***	Large (>10)		Medium (6-10)	Small (1-5)
○ ***Status of the evaluation***	Advisory		Legally binding	No evaluations done
○ ***Purpose of the evaluation***	Further study		Employment	Regulated professions
○ ***Applicants***	Individuals	Education inst.	Employers	Authorities
○ ***Services***	Online database	Training	Conferences/seminars	Projects/research

Standard 2 – Applicant-centred recognition

Foreign qualifications are evaluated based on the purpose for which recognition is sought and recognized unless there is a substantial difference. Learning outcomes take precedence in the evaluation. An alternative form of recognition is granted if possible where full recognition cannot be granted. There should be a process in place that enables the applicants to appeal against the recognition decision. All persons in a refugee (like) situation holding a qualification without documentation are able to have their qualifications assessed.

14 centres have been peer reviewed

Online training platforms

- STREAM online training platform in good practice of recognition for admissions officers;
- 800 participants from all over Europe (+ North-America, Africa, Asia);
- 121 participants from Germany!

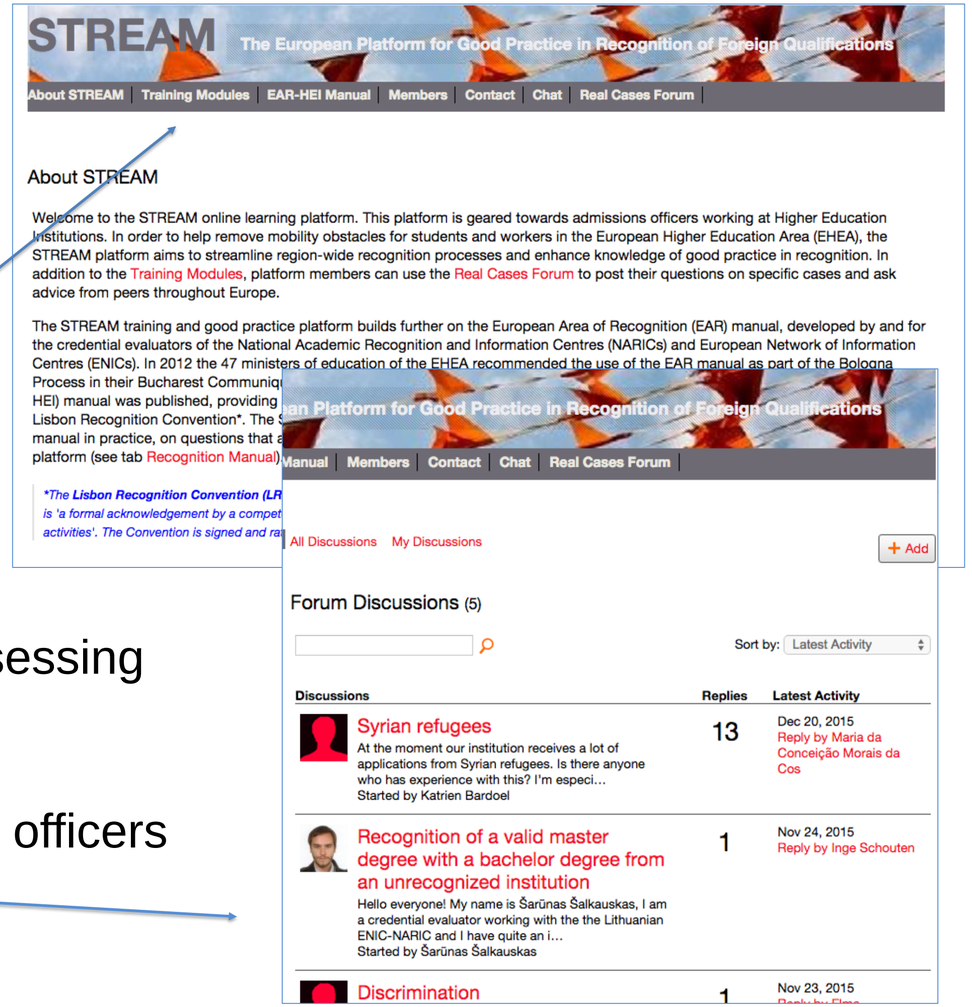
New: Credential Evaluation Course launched by EP-Nuffic last week: www.epnuffic.nl/cec

STREAM project

2 main features:

- 4 training modules:
  - Introduction to recognition
  - Quality & Legitimacy
  - Credential Evaluation and Assessing
  - Information Search

- Real cases forum for admissions officers



www.enic-naric.net
http://onlinecourse.ning.com/profiles/members/

FAIR project: policy reform

<u>Focus on Automatic Institutional Recognition</u>

Aim: to improve recognition practice of higher education institutions by implementing elements of automatic recognition.

Objectives

- ✓ Identify essentials in recognition procedures, develop practical guidelines and provide consultancy in streamlining the procedures;
- ✓ Gain commitment at policy level to effectuate the implementation of forms of automatic recognition in each participating country.

FAIR project: policy reform

- 6 countries (Germany, Croatia, Spain, Italy, Flanders, The Netherlands)
- 22 higher educations institutions (3 from Germany, including *Universität Bremen*!)
- ENIC/NARICs, CRUI and HRK as ‘country coordinators’
- EUA as independent evaluation body
- ECA as QA specialists
- NARIC Denmark as ‘critical friend’

FAIR project team

ENIC-NARICs

Ministries of Education

22 HEIs

EUA
European University Association

Evaluation body

Critical friend

eca

Accreditation expert

FAIR: project methodology

Baseline assessment

Making improvements

Impact assessment

FAIR project: main outcomes

- Highly diversified procedures;
- Unexpected role of external bodies in recognition and admission activities (e.g. uni-assist in Germany, UNED in Spain);
- Binarism and regionalism complicate the European landscape;
- Lack of familiarity with the LRC;
- No evidence that recognition and admission practice are subject to systematic QA.

Useful websites

FAIR project:

Https://www.epnuffic.nl/en/diploma-recognition/fair

EAR-HEI manual:

eurorecognition.eu/Manual/EAR%20HEI.pdf

STREAM training platform:

http://www.enic-naric.net/stream-the-online-training-platform-for-admissions-officers.aspx?srcval=stream

FAIR recommendations on:

- Providing transparent information to applicants;
- Applying LRC in a fair and more automatic way;
- Limiting processing times of applications;
- Specific procedures for RPL and/or refugees;
- Implementing QA procedure for recognition;
- Anything else?

internationalising education

Questions? Contact

Lucie de Bruin lbruin@epnuffic.nl
Bas Wegewijs wegewijs@epnuffic.nl

Follow the Dutch ENIC-NARIC on Twitter

@ENICNARIC_NL